

**31780 to 31832—Continued.****31814. MEDICAGO SATIVA L.****Alfalfa.**

From Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1507a, January 14, 1911.) An alfalfa called *No beda*, meaning hollow lucern, on account of the stems being succulent and hollow. Seems to be the same as the *Kara* from Khotan.

"As vegetable culture stands on a very low level in Chinese Turkestan and as early vegetables do not exist, both foreign residents and natives eat the young alfalfa sprouts prepared like spinach, which vegetable they are said to resemble very much in taste and looks." (*Meyer.*)

**31815. MEDICAGO SATIVA L.****Alfalfa.**

From Khanaka, Oasis of Sandju, Chinese Turkestan, 6,000 feet altitude.

"(No. 1508a, December 4, 1910.) An alfalfa called *Chilga beda*, apparently the same as No. 1504a (S. P. I. No. 31811). This variety of alfalfa ripens seed here in small quantities only, while the *Kara beda*, No. 1505a (S. P. I. No. 31812), never ripens at all and seeds have to be imported from Guma, situated at 4,000 feet elevation above sea level. This number therefore may show unusually hardy qualities and ought to be tested in a dry, cold region." (*Meyer.*)

**31816. CANNABIS SATIVA L.****Hemp.**

From Khanaka, Oasis of Sandju, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1511a, December 4, 1910.) A small-seeded variety of hemp called *Kandivi*. The oil expressed from the seeds is used for culinary and illuminating purposes. The fiber is not generally utilized, except for some very inferior rope that here and there is made from it. From the young tops, however, the hashish is made, and many are the victims addicted to the smoking of this narcotic." (*Meyer.*)

**31817. LINUM USITATISSIMUM L.****Flax.**

From Khanaka, Oasis of Sandju, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1512a, December 4, 1911.) Native name *Sigger*. Flax is extensively cultivated in both Russian and Chinese Turkestan, not for its fiber, however, but solely for the oil the seeds yield. The oil is much used in the native cooking, while the Russian settlers in central Asia have also become used to it. This linseed oil when fresh is a very palatable oil and can be used with excellent results in the frying of fish, doughnuts, pancakes, etc.

"Flax for its oil-yielding capacities seems to be very promising as a crop for those sections of the United States where the summers are short and dry, especially the mountainous western part and in the outlying districts where settlers have to grow what they need as much as possible.

"Linseed oil is much easier digested than cottonseed oil and ought to be tested as human food." (*Meyer.*)

**31818. LINUM USITATISSIMUM L.****Flax.**

From Tashmalah, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1513a, December 23, 1910.) Variety *semina lutea*. A variety with light-yellow seeds. Used for the same purpose as No. 1512a (S. P. I. No. 31817). Native name *Sigger*." (*Meyer.*)

**31819. ERUCA SATIVA Hill.****Roquette.**

From Khanaka, Oasis of Sandju, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1514a, December 4, 1910.) Native name *Sa-un*. A variety of rape seed, the oil of which is used both for culinary and illuminating purposes. To be tested as a possible crop for the intermountain regions." (*Meyer.*)